

# THE TAMPA

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# WHAT IS THE TAMPA?

- In 2001, the **Tampa**, a Norwegian cargo ship, came to the aid of more than 400 refugees whose fishing boat started sinking in the Indian Ocean, few miles away from Australian territory.
  - Refugees were mostly Afghans fleeing the Taliban from Indonesia.
- The captain defied orders, banning the ship from entering Australian territorial waters off of Christmas Island.
  - This sparked diplomatic dispute between Australia and Norway.





The Tampa carrying over 400 refugees.



# AUSTRALIAN GOVT.'S ACTIONS

- The Australian government prevented the entrance of Tampa refugees at all costs.
- Australian troops seized control of the ship.
- Although there were six very sick people and a few children and pregnant women on board, officials did not grant Tampa's entrance to Australia.
  - allocated doctors and medical supplies to ship through helicopters





Tampa refugees were in the middle of the sea,  
unable to disembark.



# AUSTRALIAN GOVT.'S ACTIONS (CONT.)

- The Australian government issued the Pacific Solution in order to prevent refugees from entering Australia.
  - A government policy of transporting asylum seekers to two Australian-funded camps in the Pacific:
    - One in Papua New Guinea and the other in Naaru
- Although criticized by NGOs (i.e. Amnesty International), solution was defended as a deterrent to attempts by illegals to seek asylum in Australia without the authorization of the Australian government.



# NORWAY'S PERSPECTIVE

- Norway stated that Australia should allow refugees to disembark.
  - Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said: "One cannot force a ship which the captain says is unseaworthy to sail into international waters."
- Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman Karsten Klepsvik also said Australian authorities had asked the Tampa to help the stricken ferry, thus should take responsibility.



# WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS?

- Tampa refugees taken by Scandinavia, North America, and New Zealand were given permanent residency.
  - They are now citizens of Canada, Sweden, Norway, or New Zealand.
  - Yet, they still cannot enter Australia.
- Some still remain in camps at Papua New Guinea and Naaru.
- Others who returned to Kabul, Afghanistan at the urge of the Australian govt. have been deceptively told that they would find security and have now ended up in prisons as illegal immigrants.





Tampa refugees now lead new lives in other countries.



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